ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

TOP SECRET

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Gale (Attn: Mr. Devic)
1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
(Attn: Mr. Rozamus)
1 - Mr. W. C. Patterson

June 16, 1969

JUNE BY LIAISON

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
The Vice President
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Vice President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

100-106670

TOP SECRET

WCP:mms
(9)

CODE 1

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

DECLASSIFIED BY 3833
ON 2/16/78

#97

TOP SECRET

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill-advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this surveillance and a surveillance on any future residence of King by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

The President and the Attorney General have also been furnished this information.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

See memorandum G. C. Moore to Mr. C. D. DeLoach, dated 6/16/69, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist," prepared by TJD:fsh.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

TOP SECRET